

Mrs. Jones is a true lady, full of grace, honor, and respect. She has lived a life of honor and service. Along with her family, friends, and community, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Jones a happy 77th birthday and commending her on her multiple accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER BILL
CLEVELAND

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Bill Cleveland of the United States Capitol Police. During my service in Congress, Officer Cleveland has made a lasting, impression on me as a motivated public servant.

Often referred to as "Officer Fantastic," Bill greets Members, staff and visitors at his Cannon House Office Building post each morning with a smile and pleasant greeting. Every time an individual responds and asks how he is doing, Officer Cleveland replies, "Fantastic!" Although he works high intensity, twelve-hour days securing the building's entrances and consistently directing visitors around the maze of hallways, Bill always remains upbeat and friendly.

The more remarkable traits of Officer Cleveland's public duties reach beyond the halls of Congress. In 1988 Bill Cleveland became the first black Republican since Reconstruction to be elected to the City Council in Alexandria, Virginia. Furthermore, he currently serves as the Vice Mayor of Alexandria and is running for mayor in May 2003. If elected, Bill would be the first black mayor of Alexandria.

When I first met Officer Cleveland, I witnessed his motivating spirit and humble service. After countless encounters I have learned Bill's actions are inspired by his deep Christian faith. At work he not only serves the people, but he does so because of his fervor for the Lord. Officer Cleveland's leadership, enthusiasm, and sense of duty have been extraordinary examples for my staff and me. Each day be is a welcoming reminder of how truly great it is to serve in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Bill Cleveland is a great American and I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking him for such outstanding service.

TRIBUTE TO THANKSGIVING

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the national holiday of Thanksgiving to be held this year on the 28th of November.

This traditional holiday, bringing together families and celebrating what we are blessed with as individuals and as a country, takes on an ever more important meaning now as Americans confront terrorism. For the nation to give thanks to God is a hallowed custom, one which is truly American.

Initially celebrated by our forefathers, this holiday became a tradition of thanks for a bountiful harvest, which provided colonists with enough food to last through the winter. The observation was also a time to pray and give thanks for peace with their Native American neighbors. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln officially appointed a national day of Thanksgiving. Since then, each president has issued a Thanksgiving Day proclamation, designating the fourth Thursday of each November as the official holiday.

As we take the time out of our busy lives to stop and give thanks for the food on our table, our loved ones, the homes we live in and our magnificent nation, let us also remember our forefathers and the sacrifices they made to build our great country and the freedoms by which we may celebrate and express our thanks.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
BILL OWENS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express gratitude and congratulations to the Honorable Bill Owens, Governor of Colorado. Four years ago, Gov. Owens promised to improve education for Colorado's children, reduce the tax burden on families, and make transportation a top priority. Gov. Owens has not only kept his promises to Colorado, but has managed to accomplish much more in his tenure as Governor.

On education, Governor Owens has made schools more accountable for the academic achievements of children. He has expanded assessment testing to better measure the success of children and has pushed for accountability reports that detail the safety and academic performance of Colorado schools. For the first time in a decade, the state is fully funding public education. Gov. Owens has also managed to create smaller class sizes for children in kindergarten through third grade and many full-day kindergarten programs. Other impacts of the education reform include a Read to Achieve grant to provide new programs and new textbooks for many Colorado classrooms.

Governor Owens has also made history by pushing the state's largest tax-relief package. That effort has amounted to \$1 billion in rate cuts of personal income, sales, and capital gains taxes. He also has eliminated the marriage penalty tax. More over, Owens has managed to keep the budget balanced by making responsible decisions to veto \$47 million in line items. He then called on state agencies to cut an additional 4 percent from their budgets.

As governor, Owens has paid special attention to Colorado's long-neglected transportation system. Under Owens' leadership, the state will invest more than \$15 billion in Colorado's highway system in the next 20 years. Although this plan funds projects through the state, Owens constructed it without raising taxes. Colorado will now have better, cleaner, and safer roads for years to come.

Governor Owens has managed to accomplish all this under the pressure of other challenges facing the state and nation demanding

his action. These calls to action include school violence, drought, wildfires, economic slowdown, terrorism, and much more.

Owens' leadership skills are unmatched, and his ability to work in a bipartisan manner earns him daily praise. More importantly, Gov. Owens is firmly committed to making Colorado a better place to live for present and future generations of Coloradans. I ask the House to extend its congratulations and sincere thanks to Governor Bill Owens for his success and accomplishment as Colorado's Governor.

CHANGING LIVES CHARACTER
EDUCATION PROGRAM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Changing Lives character education program, an exceptional curriculum being used throughout the country with proven results to improve individual lives and schools.

The development of character among our young people today is critical to the stability and success of our nation and society. John Adams, the second President of the United States, recognized the immense importance of character and morality to our nation. "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people," he said in an address to the military. "It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, there is a real vacuum of values in our culture today. Too many of our youth are growing up without the guidance and modeling of basic, time-honored character traits, which at one time were reinforced by one's family, church, school and community.

Two well-respected teachers and coaches have joined together to respond to this need for character development among elementary and secondary students. Dennis Parker and D.W. Rutledge, in conjunction with Zig Ziglar, have created a character curriculum called "Changing Lives." The curriculum involves several innovative components, including "Word of the Week" character concepts, a mission statement for the school, banners and posters in the halls about character education, books and readings, journal writing, and focused activities facilitating student, parent, teachers and community involvement in the character education process.

While there are many character education programs on the market, the Changing Lives curriculum is the only one I know which has received extensive study and evaluation. Two psychologists at the University of Dayton recently conducted a scientifically based study of the Changing Lives program. They found that schools with the Changing Lives curriculum demonstrated positive behavior changes and results among the student body in comparison with schools that did not incorporate the curriculum into the classroom. Teachers reported less frequent negative student behaviors and fewer disciplinary actions. Students reported fewer unruly behaviors and a greater expectation from teachers for them to behave in positive ways. Parents were also more likely to attend school activities and rated the schools more positively.